

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An artificial eye, comprising a partially hemispherical surface having a front convex side and a back side, wherein the back side is configured so as to be installed within a molded eye mounting area of a sculpture, and wherein the eye mounting area is generally molded into the shape of a natural eye recess of the species being sculpted.
2. The artificial eye of claim 1, further comprising an edge around the outer circumference of the backside, and wherein the molded eye mounting area further comprises:
 - an eye socket having an upper rim having an upper surface, and a lower rim having a lower surface;
 - an upper eyelid positioned above and a lower eyelid positioned below the upper and lower rims, respectively; and
 - a recess formed between the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims; wherein the upper and lower surfaces are molded such that placement of the eye in the eye socket also mates the edge of the eye to the upper and lower surfaces of the mounting area and correctly orients the eye on the sculpture.
3. The artificial eye of claim 1, wherein the eye is affixed to the mounting area on a sculpture selected from the group consisting of taxidermy manikins, dolls, toys, stuffed toy animals, clothing mannequins, and artistic sculptures.
4. The artificial eye of claim 3, wherein the eye is affixed to the mounting area on a taxidermy manikin.
5. The artificial eye of claim 1, wherein the eye is configured in a modified, partially hemispherical configuration and the back side of the eye is concave.
6. The artificial eye of claim 1, wherein the convex front surface of the eye is aspheric in shape.
7. The artificial eye of claim 1, wherein the eye is manufactured from glass or acrylic material.
8. The artificial eye of claim 7, wherein the eye is manufactured from glass.
9. A sculpture for mounting at least one artificial eye, comprising at least one molded eye mounting area further comprising:

a molded eye socket having an upper rim having an upper surface, and a lower rim having a lower surface;
a molded upper eyelid positioned above and a lower eyelid positioned below the upper and lower rims, respectively; and
a molded recess formed between the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims;
wherein the upper and lower surfaces are molded such that placement of the at least one eye in the eye socket correctly orients the eye on the sculpture.

10. The sculpture of claim 9, wherein the eye mounted thereon is configured in a partially hemispherical configuration.

11. The sculpture of claim 10, wherein the mounting area is on a sculpture selected from the group consisting of taxidermy manikins, dolls, toys, stuffed toy animals, clothing mannequins, and artistic sculptures.

12. The sculpture of claim 11, wherein the mounting area is on a taxidermy manikin.

13. An apparatus for mounting an artificial eye on a conventional taxidermy manikin, comprising:

an eye-mounting piece having a front surface having a recess disposed therein;
a back surface for placement within an eye recess of a conventional taxidermy manikin; and

an outer edge, wherein the outer edge is disposed so as to be in a mating relationship with the eye recess of the conventional taxidermy manikin.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the front surface is configured so as to be in a mating relationship with an artificial eye of modified partially hemispherical configuration.

15. A sculpture having at least one artificial eye, comprising:

an artificial eye of partially hemispherical configuration, comprising a front convex side and a back side, wherein the back side is configured so as to be installed within a molded eye mounting area of the sculpture, and

a sculpture having a molded eye mounting area, comprising a molded eye socket having an upper rim having an upper surface, and a lower rim having a lower surface; a molded upper eyelid positioned above and a lower eyelid positioned

below the upper and lower rims, respectively; and a molded recess formed between the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims; wherein the upper and lower surfaces are molded such that placement of the at least one eye in the eye socket correctly orients the eye on the sculpture.

16. The sculpture of claim 15, wherein the artificial eye further comprises an edge around the outer circumference of the backside, and wherein the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims of the eye mounting area are molded such that placement of the eye in the eye socket also mates the edge of the eye to the upper and lower surfaces of the mounting area and correctly orients the eye on the sculpture.

17. The artificial eye of claim 16, wherein the sculpture having at least one artificial eye is selected from the group consisting of taxidermy manikins, dolls, toys, stuffed toy animals, clothing mannequins, and artistic sculptures.

18. The artificial eye of claim 17, wherein the eye is affixed to the mounting area on a taxidermy manikin.

19. The artificial eye of claim 15 wherein the eye comprises a modified partially hemispherical artificial eye configuration and the back side of the eye is concave.

20. The artificial eye of claim 15, wherein the convex front surface of the eye is aspheric in shape.

21. The artificial eye of claim 15, wherein the eye is manufactured from glass or acrylic material.

22. The artificial eye of claim 21, wherein the eye is manufactured from glass.

23. A method for manufacturing an artificial eye for a sculpture, comprising the following steps:

determining a partially hemispherical shape for the eye based upon a naturally-occurring visible eye shape for a selected species being sculpted; and manufacturing the eye in the determined shape from glass or acrylic material.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the sculpture is selected from the group consisting of taxidermy manikins, dolls, toys, stuffed toy animals, clothing mannequins, and artistic sculptures.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the sculpture is a taxidermy manikin and the shape of the eye being manufactured is based upon the naturally-occurring visible eye shape for the animal species being mounted.

26. A method for mounting at least one partially hemispherical artificial eye in a sculpture, comprising the steps of:

providing an artificial eye comprising a partially hemispherical configuration having a front convex side and a back side;

providing at least one molded eye mounting area on the sculpture, comprising a molded eye socket having an upper rim having an upper surface, and a lower rim having a lower surface; a molded upper eyelid positioned above and a lower eyelid positioned below the upper and lower rims, respectively; and a molded recess formed between the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims; wherein the upper and lower surfaces are molded such that placement of the at least one eye in the eye socket correctly orients the eye on the sculpture;

installing the at least one artificial eye in the at least one molded eye socket.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

configuring an edge around the outer circumference of the backside of the artificial eye, and

molding the upper and lower surfaces of the upper and lower rims of the eye mounting area such that installing the eye in the eye socket also mates the edge of the eye to the upper and lower surfaces of the mounting area, correctly orienting the eye on the sculpture.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the sculpture is selected from the group consisting of taxidermy manikins, dolls, toys, stuffed toy animals, clothing mannequins, and artistic sculptures.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the sculpture is a taxidermy manikin.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the artificial eye comprises a modified partially hemispherical artificial eye configuration and the back side of the eye is concave.